

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1348

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to recognize Steve Bivens on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this General Assembly should honor those citizens who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their careers; and

WHEREAS, Steve Bivens is one such estimable person, a steadfast citizen of distinction who served as a member of the House of Representatives of the Tennessee General Assembly for fourteen years and continued the betterment of the State of Tennessee through his career as a lobbyist; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens was elected in 1978 to represent District 24, Bradley County, in the House of Representatives of the 91st General Assembly and served through 1992, ending with the 97th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, during his time in the General Assembly, Steve Bivens was elected by his colleagues in the House of Representatives to serve as the House Majority Whip from 1981 to 1984 and was also selected to serve as Speaker Pro Tempore of the 94th General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Education, Vice Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, Chairman of the "Sudden Impact" Subcommittee, and Chairman of the K-12 Subcommittee, having built a legacy in public service that is second to none; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens's outgoing personality makes him approachable to everyone; he gave his time and commitment as he worked with individuals from both sides of the aisle; and

WHEREAS, through his leadership and integrity, Mr. Bivens sponsored and supported legislation for improving the public school system and building better roads and a better way of life for Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens advocated for local projects in his work with the Highway 60 bridge and promotion of the Ocoee River's development and tourism; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens served with exemplary commitment, sincerity, and wisdom and demonstrated the courage to face difficult issues; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens was named to the Outstanding Young Men of 1976, and his invaluable character and wit led to his being named among the Political Personalities of America in 1981; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his responsibilities as a legislator, Mr. Bivens served as President of the Cleveland-Bradley County United Way from 1987 to 1988 and Chairman of the United Way Fund Drive in 1985 and 1986, and he received the high honor of the William Johnson United Way Service Award in 1989; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens was chosen to serve as an honorary member of Future Farmers of America, and he served on the Bradley County School Board for ten years, where he was chairman for two years, as well as the Cleveland State Community College Foundation Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, after fourteen years of public service to the citizens of Tennessee as a member of the General Assembly, Steve Bivens founded the firm of Bivens and Associates and transitioned into serving Tennessee by representing industries across the State as a registered lobbyist, representing a varied slate of successful clients and associations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bivens has always been an honest and ethical lobbyist and most knowledgeable about the process from his time serving in the General Assembly and serving as Speaker Pro Tempore; and

WHEREAS, Steve Bivens exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Steve Bivens has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and a grateful public; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we extend to Steve Bivens our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement, offering our deepest gratitude for his years of dedicated service to the State of Tennessee and wishing him continued success and happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.